# BILL034(26)
# Testimony

**MISC. COMM. 158**

COUNCIL

**COUNCIL  Meeting**

Meeting Date: Apr 15, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Dylan Armstrong | dylan.p.armstrong@gmail.com | 96822 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Apr 14, 2026 @ 01:31 PM |

Testimony:

I support Bill 34. In general, I would strongly encourage when possible federal building regulation conformity.

It is not lost on me that the discussion around this and similar measures is is seen by many as a tradeoff, a choice being able to afford construction, and insurance, and building maintenance, or not. As a proud supporter of tradesmen and construction workers, I do not support this bill idly.

However, we now live in an increasingly expensive paradigm where capital losses will continue to grow, exponentially, due to natural hazards-based disasters. Many people will continue to think we are in late 20th century conditions. This is a brave new world.

We are already seeing this growth in disaster damages over the period from 2016-2026.

Having worked on applications requiring National Flood Insurance Program participation, I am familiar with these program requirements. They are not perfected for Hawaiʻi's conditions at the national level, but what these do is broadly speaking provide a legal foundations that provides billions of dollars to disaster-prone, mainly Southern and typically Republican states. This is a federal redistribution of wealth to states that under-contribute in federal taxes. Fiscally speaking, Hawaiʻi must take advantage of this system.

Hawaiʻi never engaged in economic development sufficient to weather these kinds of disasters on its own. Some will misremember history as saying that Hawaiʻi lacks indigenous wealth. (Bad puns beget bad puns.) Remember that Hawaiʻi has always exported labor from today to two centuries ago, for whaling and commercial shipping--Native Hawaiian men who in many cases never returned--as well as furnished the raw material for the sandalwood boom of the 19th century. More recently, the plantation wealth has largely gone overseas to corporate holding companies as production locally has shuttered.

I am not raising idle points of anticolonial grievance, I am saying that at every opportunity, Hawaiʻi has lost fiscal and economic resilience at key junctures. Most recently, such criticism from the media and experts has extended to the COVID-19 emergency and federal monies that were used for stabilization and recovery. Whether this is fair and accurate, or not, Hawaiʻi is now in a precarious position.

You do not have a tax basis with which to currently shore up against these kinds of losses.

Career experience like mine will prove invaluable for the rest of the century. I see no reason not to support this

foresighted and timely measure.

Mahalo nui loa,

DP Armstrong

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|---|---|---|
| Name:<br>Stefanie Sakamoto | Email:<br>ssakamoto@imanaka-asato.com | Zip:<br>96789 |
| Representing:<br>BIA Hawaii | Position:<br>I wish to comment | Submitted:<br>Apr 14, 2026 @ 05:05 PM |

**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**
**HONOLULU HALE**
**10:00 AM**

April 15, 2026

Subject: Bill 34 - Relating to Flood Hazard Areas

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and members of the Council::

My name is Roseann Freitas, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA Hawaii submits the following comments regarding Bill 34, which proposes to amend the Flood Hazard Area Ordinance, Chapter 21A, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, to adopt language and construction standards consistent with the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order to maintain the City and County of Honolulu's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Community Rating System (CRS).

BIA Hawaii supports the goal of ensuring that the City and County of Honolulu remains in good standing with FEMA and retains its eligibility for the NFIP and CRS. However, BIA Hawaii urges the Council to consider the practical implications of these amendments on the building permit review and approval process, which is already subject to significant delays. Any new regulatory requirements adopted through Bill 34 must be accompanied by a clear plan to ensure that the Department of Planning and Permitting can administer them efficiently and without exacerbating delays.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.